

1904

# REPORT OF DEPARTMENT OF ARCHEOLOGY, NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, FOR 1903 AND 1904

Elmer Ellsworth Blackman  
*Nebraska State Historical Society*

Jade Robison  
jrobison4@unl.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nebhisttrans>



Part of the [American Material Culture Commons](#), [History of Art, Architecture, and Archaeology Commons](#), [Indigenous Studies Commons](#), and the [Museum Studies Commons](#)

---

Blackman, Elmer Ellsworth and Robison, Jade, "REPORT OF DEPARTMENT OF ARCHEOLOGY, NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, FOR 1903 AND 1904" (1904). *Transactions and Reports, Nebraska State Historical Society*. 70.  
<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nebhisttrans/70>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Nebraska State Historical Society at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Transactions and Reports, Nebraska State Historical Society by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

REPORT  
OF  
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHEOLOGY,  
NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY,  
FOR  
1903 AND 1904.

---

E. E. BLACKMAN, ARCHEOLOGIST.

#### EXPLANATION OF THE PLATES.

Plate I. Map of the Nehawka flint quarries.

Plate II. A map of the Weeping Water valley, showing lodge circles in groups of three as observed by L. J. Griffith of Nehawka. Drawn by L. J. Griffith.

Plate III. Half-tone showing the cross-section which Isaac Pollard made through one of the pits at Nehawka. The cross-section is eighty feet long, six feet wide and ten feet deep. Below is a half-tone of the Roca bust, which was found ten miles south of Lincoln. The scale is millimeter.

Plate IV. Map of Blue Springs and vicinity showing the "Wonder site" and the "Rice site."

Plate V. Half-tone of two Quivera tomahawks found on the "Rice site" and mounted with handles by Walter Rice of Blue Springs.

Plate VI. Obverse and reverse side of a carved rock found on the "Wonder site," near Blue Springs (natural size).

## REPORT OF DEPARTMENT OF ARCHEOLOGY, 1903.

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHEOLOGY, January 1, 1904.

### *To the Honorable Executive Board, State Historical Society, Greeting:*

An unusually wet season has retarded very materially the work of this department during the season of 1903. Many trips for purposes of exploration were planned, but very few extensive trips were executed. Eight trips in all were made; two of them were for the purpose of securing files of old newspapers, and six were for purposes of exploration.

Five lectures were delivered during 1903, and five catalogue numbers were added to the museum from all sources.

The study of the year has systemized the Indian tribes of the state more fully and has gathered into available form some valuable data.

The crowded condition of the museum has led me to avoid collections rather than seek them, until such a time as the negotiations now pending shall materialize and at least offer a prospect of room enough to properly display such collections as shall be entrusted to our care. Despite this limitation on my part, many relics have been sent in.

### EXPLORATION.

The flint quarries, referred to in my last report, have attracted so much attention that it became necessary to chart them accurately; to that end I made a trip to Nehawka, April 6, and measured the ground with a steel tape; I also counted the pits. There are 617,800 square feet, or a little over fourteen acres of surface actually quarried. This result was obtained by a careful measurement of the irregular surface of the six different fields in the vicinity of Nehawka. These fields are marked on the accompanying chart (marked Plate I).

There are 293 separate and distinct pits in this area. One of these pits has been cross-sectioned and is found to be ten feet deep, and to pass through three ledges of lime-rock, from thirty to forty inches thick; in fact the whole depth is through solid rock. It can not be stated how many of these 293 pits are of like depth, as but one has been cross-sectioned.

W. J. Griffing, of Manhattan, Kan., who is conducting archeological explorations for the historical society of that state, desired me to join him in a study of the lower Republican valley. While this field is not truly Nebraska territory, the study of the lower Republican valley is of importance to our state, and I made a trip to Manhattan, May 16, to consult with Mr. Griffing and arrange a camp trip later in the season. Arrangements were made and a date fixed for the start, but the continued heavy rains so damaged bridges that the trip was given up.

May 16, immediately upon my return from Manhattan, I went to Schuyler upon the request of Mrs. Robert Gray to explore an extensive

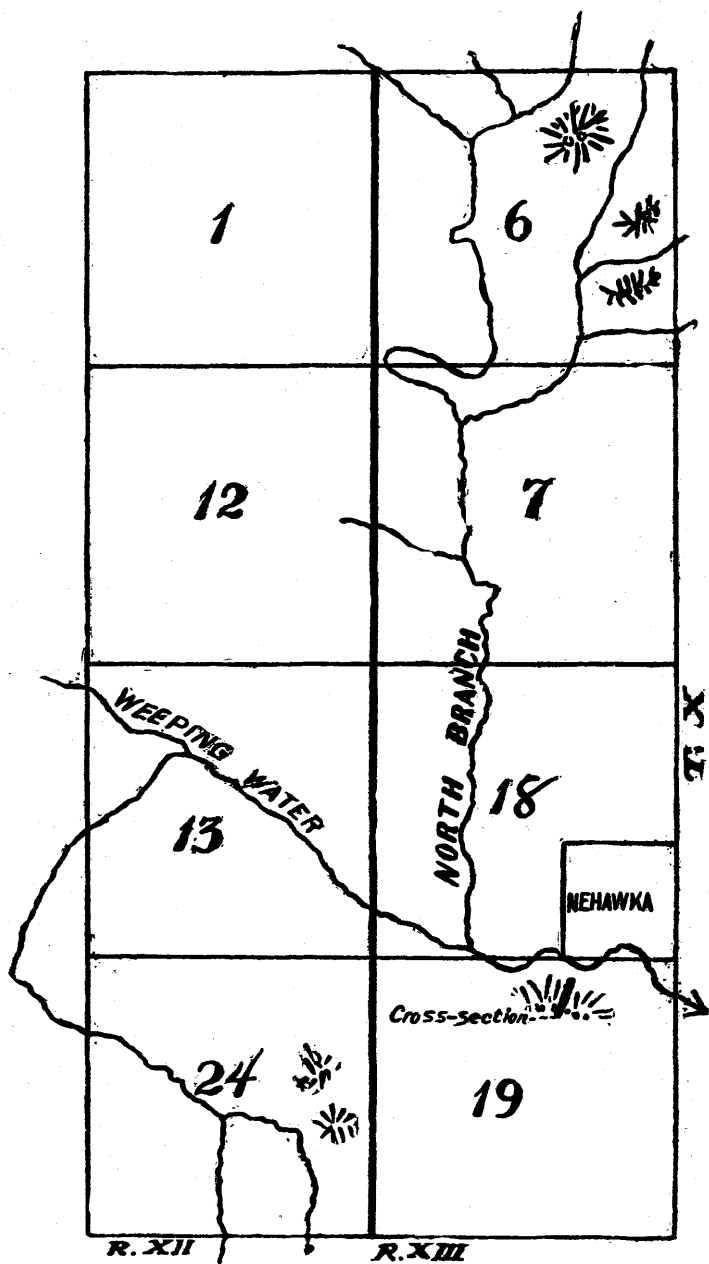


PLATE I.

field of which she had written me. The following account of this interesting site I prepared for the *Schuyler Free Lance* of May 29, 1903: "Schuyler is one of the thriving towns north of the Platte river, on the main line of the great overland route, the Union Pacific railway. It is situated near where Shell Creek joins the Platte from the north. Shell Creek rises between the Elkhorn on the north and the Loup River on the south, in the western part of Platte county, flows across Colfax county and has an eastward trend. It is a short stream, but at times carries a vast quantity of water, as I observed when visiting it a few days ago. Shell Creek is separated from the Platte by a low range of sandy hills, rising about sixty feet in the highest places. This range is not over two miles wide in the widest place, and at Schuyler the range comes to a point where the valley of Shell Creek joins the valley of the Platte immediately north of town.

Beginning at this point of hills, and extending westward for a distance of three miles, is the ruin of an extensive Indian village which I have named the "Gray site" in honor of Mrs. Robert Gray, who first called my attention to it. May 19 I accepted Mrs. Gray's kind invitation and made a careful exploration of the site.

This site belongs to the Stone Age. Bear in mind the Stone Age in Nebraska extended down very nearly to historic times. Many of the natives met by Lewis and Clark in 1804 were still in the Stone Age. The people who inhabited the Gray site met and trafficked with white men before the site was deserted, but most of the time it was occupied by people who had never come in contact with whites, as the artifacts strewn over the site indicate. As soon as redmen saw the implements of civilization they abandoned their own clumsy stone implements and procured those made by the whites; peacefully, if possible, but by force if necessary. By far the larger portion of the relics found on the Gray site are stone. Only a few bits of copper and very rarely a scrap of iron is to be found. This proves that there had been little contact with the whites.

Sherds of pottery are abundant. The pottery found in the state may be divided into three general classes: Basket ware, which is the oldest and is found on the Omaha sites; decorated ware, which is found on Pawnee sites; and a rude ware used by the later tribes which is burned to a red color in many cases. There are various subdivisions of these three general classes. The basket ware having fabric impressions on the outside, is not found on the Gray site; all the specimens are of the decorated kind, having handles of artistic design. No whole specimens have come under my notice.

The chipped stone implements are quite numerous and cover a wide range of material. The blue chert, found in nodules along the Blue River, is abundant. Some specimens are made of material from the banks of the Kansas River. The flint quarries of Nehawka, on the Weeping Water, furnished by far the greatest quantity of the material. Green quartzite from the banks of the Niobrara River forms a small per cent. of the specimens found, and brown jasper, found in strata along the Republican

River, is in evidence. A few specimens of agate taken from the drift made small arrow heads for the fastidious red man. No obsidian is found, showing the lack of contact with western tribes. There are a few specimens of pink flint or jasper, which comes from the south; this shows a contact in that direction. Catlanite is found in small quantities which proves nothing.

The form of the implements found proves the site to be Pawnee. The material proves a northward range to the Niobrara and the pipestone quarries. But here let me say that the scarcity of unworked pieces of pipestone shows me that these people probably never visited the quarries, but procured the pipestone specimens from other tribes by traffic. Every indication points to a southern position as the former home of the tribe which once lived on the Gray site. There are a few of those coarsely chipped implements which abound along the Blue River and which are not often found north of the Platte.

There is no historic account of this village coming to us from the early writers that I have been able to find. June 8, 1820, Major Long crossed Shell Creek six miles above its junction with the Platte. He came so near the Gray site that if it was inhabited at that time he would have mentioned the fact. I am led to believe that the Gray site was in ruins and deserted in 1820, as the Pawnees (who were undoubtedly the builders) then lived on the Loup near where Fullerton now stands; Long visited them there in 1820.

There are two forms of houses on the Gray site; the mound house, which I have noticed at Genoa on the Burkett site, and the circle house which is dug below the surface and heaped with earth and which forms a ruin like a circus ring, being lowest in the center. The circle house form is by far the most common in this state. The mound-house ruin is raised in the center and has an elevation of from two to six feet.

The people on the Gray ranch are very much interested and assisted me substantially in my brief exploration by their hospitality and guidance."

June 15 I started on a trip to Council Bluffs and vicinity for the purpose of following out some hints given me by Hon. J. V. Brower, who discovered indications north of Council Bluffs which led me to believe that extensive chipping fields might be discovered there. I searched last year for the fields where the aborigines carried the flint taken from the Nehawka quarries, but failed to find any considerable fields where extensive chipping had been done on this side of the Missouri River. I searched north of Council Bluffs for a distance of five miles but failed to discover the evidences sought; true, the vegetation was very rank and the time inopportune, but I have no hope of finding such chipping fields in that vicinity.

July 16 I started on an extended camp-trip along the Blue River for the purpose of reviewing the sites already discovered, and, if possible, discover new ones. This trip consumed ten days and was quite fruitful. At a point eight miles northwest of Beatrice I discovered a small

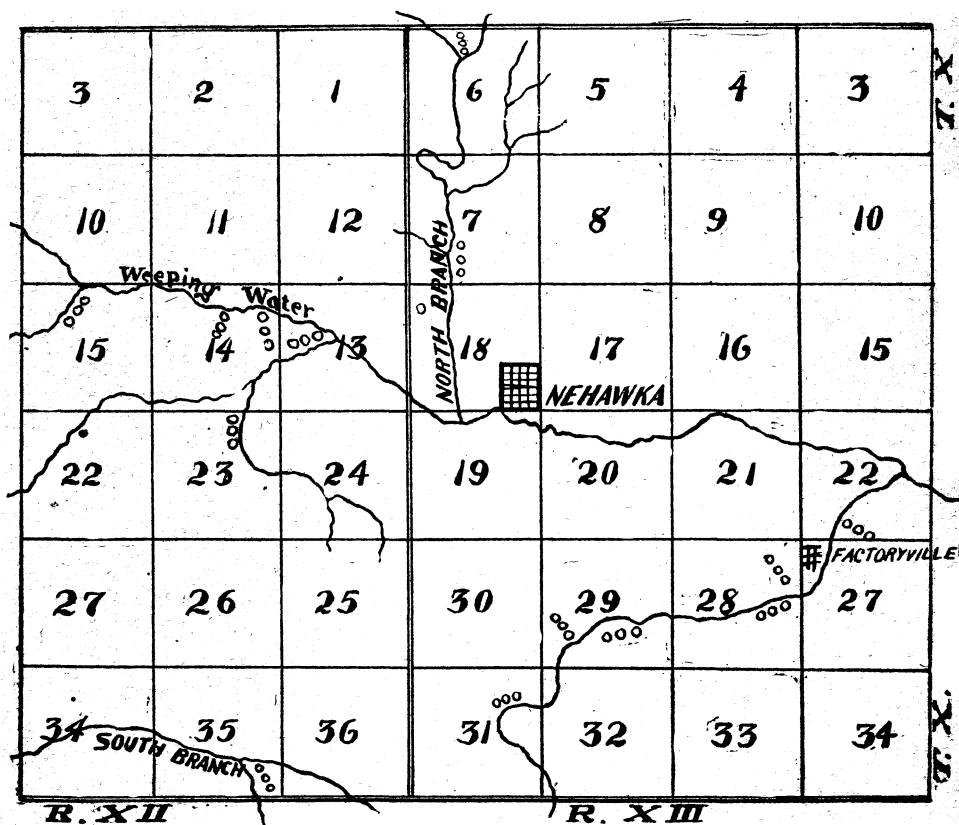


PLATE II.



village site on the farm of R. Dibbles, section 11, township 4 north, range 5 east. This I named the "Dibbles site." It is small in area and comprised only a few tepees at the point of the hill upon which Mr. Dibbles' house stands. Mr Dibbles related some stories of early times in that part of Gage county.

A camp was made at Holmesville and the Hollingworth site reviewed. I visited the home of Wm. Meyer, who lives a mile south of Holmesville. He found a very fine stone axe on his farm. Between Holmesville and Blue Springs is another more extensive site, near the northeast corner of section 5, town 2 north, range 7 east. This site has not been thoroughly explored.

A camp was made on the farm of C. E. Rice, on the east side of the Blue, from which I drove over the surrounding country. Mr. Walter Rice accompanied me to the Wonder site, one mile north of Blue Springs, where we secured a number of relics; a carved rock was found which is of interest; this rock is oval in form and three inches in diameter. It is about half an inch thick and of a soft gray sandstone. Upon either side are marks evidently made by man, which doubtless mean something if they could be translated. No one has yet offered an explanation of these marks. An account of the Wonder site may be found in my report of 1902 (October 7). There is little doubt but this rock will assist in tracing the obscure history of the people who once occupied the Wonder site. (Plate VI.)

The most notable result of this trip centers around the Rice site, which was discovered March 11, 1902. This site has aroused more interest than at first thought possible. Upon it is found many stone implements of very rude design and ruder workmanship; they are really paleolithic in form and show a very low order of civilization. For that reason they are interesting; artistic stone implements, those which show a high degree of skill in making, are common in all parts of the world, but the fields where such rude specimens are to be obtained are limited in extent. In the east half of Kansas and the southeast part of Nebraska, covering an area about 150 miles in diameter, one may find these rude implements. The form and workmanship both suggest an early stage of the stone age, and as the attention of students is called to them and as they are studied more the interest will grow. Walter Rice was inspired by my first visit to explore the surrounding country, and in consequence the area of the site has expanded until it is found to cover the highest points for some distance along the Blue River just east of Wymore. Mr. Rice sent a hundred specimens to the museum which are very interesting. There is abundance of flint in the limestone which crops out of the hills near this site; it is found in the form of nodules, and rude tomahawks and other implements were made of that material by beating one rock against another. By this process man first wrought out his weapons of defense, and by this process man first fashioned his arrows with which to secure his food. Not a single sherd of pottery is intermingled. The artifacts may well belong to the people

which Coronado found in this latitude in 1541. The question may well arise, "Is this the 'end of Quivera' to which Coronado penetrated in his memorable march in search of Quivera?"

Mr. James Crawford loaned a very fine specimen of Quivera tomahawk, which I illustrated in my report for 1902. He also furnished some very valuable specimens of other stone-age implements. The Rice site has been mapped (Plate V).

An account of my trip to Council Bluffs in June was published in a paper of that place and attracted the attention of Mr. Norman Joseph Miller of that place, who opened correspondence with me relative to a ruin of an extensive Indian village situated immediately across the Missouri River from the mouth of the Platte. After a number of letters had passed between us, October 27 was selected as the date for a careful exploration of this village site. Mr. Miller, who was thoroughly familiar with the locality, accompanied me as guide. An area of country having a river front along the east bluffs of the Missouri for three miles and extending back into the bluffs for nearly a mile, was once more or less thickly strewn with Indian habitat. It seems that few, if any, extensive groups of lodges were ever found here; but scattered here and there over this area are small groups of ruins showing that a few teepees had occupied every prominent point throughout this area.

Upon this field I found pieces of flint containing the same fossils found in the Nehawka flint, and naturally concluded that at last the chipping field for the Nehawka quarries would be found, but while exploring near the base of the bluffs, near Hinton's station, I found flint nodules in the same carboniferous limestone found on the Weeping Water in Nebraska. This is the most important discovery made on this trip, as it shows this geological formation to reach across the Missouri River into Iowa. The artifacts found on this village site do not show contact with whites, and the village site doubtless antedates the Lewis and Clark expedition of 1804. Some specimens found show much skill in their manufacture, and pottery is quite abundant. Upon a part of this site resides Otis E. Allis, son of Rev. Samuel Allis, who was missionary to the Pawnees in Nebraska in 1834. Mr. Allis sent to the museum the gun used by his father at that date, and also a cane which Rev. Samuel Allis cut from his claim near Papillion in 1843. He gave also a number of Indian relics found on his farm, among them a very ancient clay pipe moulded in the form of the human head and face.

Mr. Miller and I put in two days exploring in the vicinity. We partook of the hospitality of Otis E. Allis and listened to many stories and early reminiscences of life in Nebraska. Mr. Miller proved a very efficient guide and is himself a very interesting and unique character. According to Mr. Miller's own statement, his father came from Hamburg, Germany, and was in the employ of the Hudson Bay Company near the headwaters of the Mississippi. His mother was "Lo-el-le-ta," (Hazel leaf), daughter of "Little Crow." Mr. Miller is the direct descendant of "Kyo-oy-ah," the great sachem of the Crow Indians. He was trained as

a medicine man, and the mantle of this chief fell on Mr. Miller. Though but a boy at the time, he was held officially responsible for the Indian outbreak at Mankato and Blue Earth, Minn., in 1862. He was convicted of this crime and paroled to Iowa until March, 1904, when his sentence expired. He is head chief of seven tribes of the Siouan family by inheritance.

In August I made a side trip into Iowa and there met Mr. Mitchel Vincent at Onawa. Mr. Vincent was county surveyor of Monona county for some time and he surveyed the Missouri River front of that county locating the Lewis and Clark camps. While there he presented me with a pamphlet copy of the *Floyd Journal*, and I had the pleasure of inspecting a copy of "Dr. Cowe's Lewis and Clarke," which he had in his library. Mr. Vincent is very much interested in all matters bearing on the "Louisiana Purchase."

While on this trip I brought home with me some very fine arrow points presented by Mrs. Alice Fitchner, of Anthon, Ia. They were found in Scott county, Ia.

#### TRIPS FOR PAPERS.

Dr. Link, of Millard, one of the early pioneers of Nebraska, informed the society that he had a number of files of early newspapers, complete and incomplete, stored in his attic which should be added to the files now stored in the historical society fire-proof rooms. On the 3d of March I stopped at Millard and partook of the doctor's hospitality. About 800 pounds of newspapers were packed and sent to Lincoln.

L. O. Howard, who publishes the *Milford Nebraskan*, had the bound volumes of that paper and the *Pleasant Dale Quiz* reaching back a number of years. These papers Mr. Howard kindly consented to loan to the society, and on April 1 I packed these papers and shipped them to Lincoln.

#### LECTURES.

The lectures delivered during the year were a fruitful source of benefit to the society, inasmuch as this brings to the notice of the public the needs of the society and adds to the list of our acquaintances. I suggest that a number of lantern slides be made and an illustrated lecture on "Nebraska Archeology" be prepared.

The first lecture of the season was delivered at Belmont, March 13. The second was at York College, York, Neb., April 9. While on this trip I was entertained at the home of L. D. Stilson. I had the honor of meeting a number of the good citizens of York, who are interested in the work of this society. Rev. B. T. Cross has a number of archeological specimens, among which is a "cache" of flints found in York county, on the farm of Judge Wildman; there are several hundred pieces, a few of which are clipped into artifacts, but by far the greater number are "mercantile" flints, that is, flakes of flint struck off the nodule to be sold or trafficked, after which they are chipped into shape. The material of these flints is a light lilac tinge and the flakes were evidently struck



PLATE III.

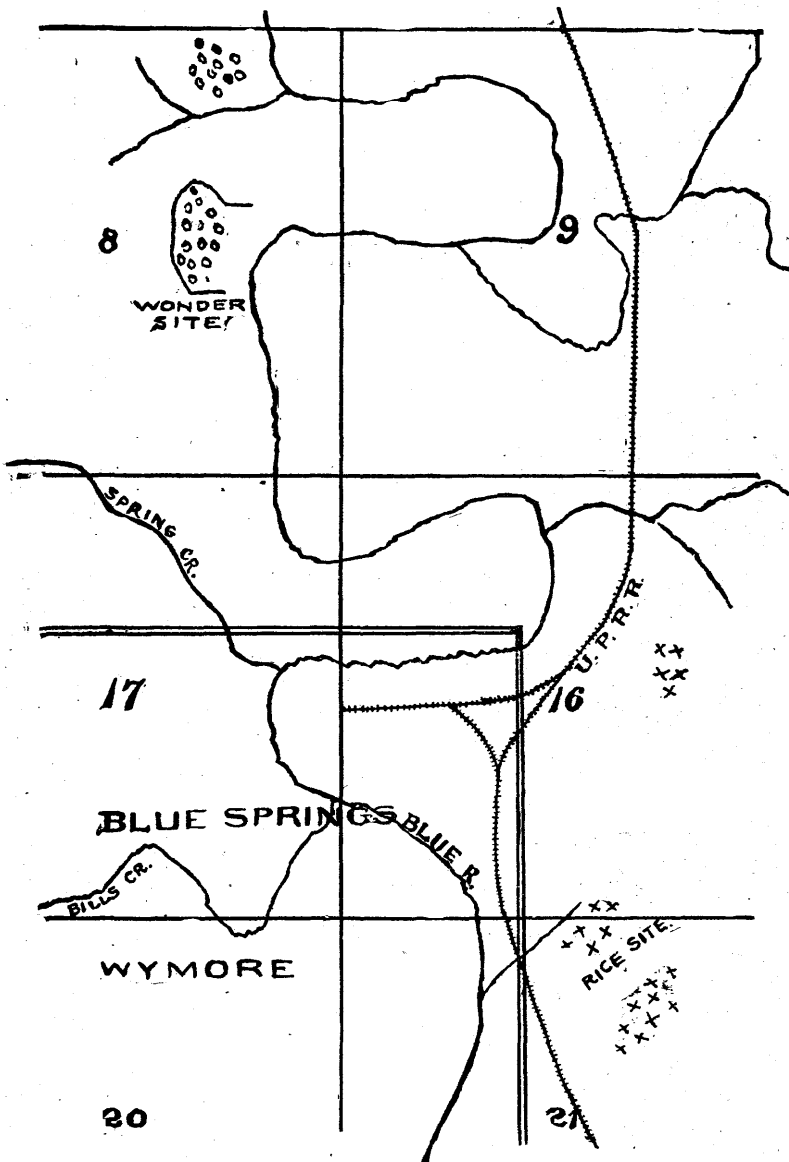


PLATE IV.

from a rounded nodule. I do not know the original home of this material. C C. Cobb has a very fine private museum containing many thousand specimens, which we had the pleasure of inspecting. Johnson Brothers, dealers in shoes, have a large collection of recent Indian material, and L. D. Stilson has a number of interesting geological and other specimens.

On April 17 I delivered a lecture at Pleasant Dale, and May 27 I delivered the "Commencement" lecture at Stuart. On my way to Stuart I stopped at Clearwater and accepted the invitation of Thomas Marwood to drive some miles into the country and inspect some interesting specimens. I was entertained at Mr. Marwood's house while in Clearwater, and at that time saw his frame containing 414 perfect specimens of beautifully chipped arrow-points. Mr. Marwood's collection contains nearly twice as many specimens that are not mounted, and is probably the largest collection of small arrow-points to be found in the state in a private collection. We shall hope some day to secure his collection for the Historical Society. The whole length of the Elkhorn River is a fertile field for the relic hunter, but Antelope county has thus far yielded a greater quantity of finer material than any other part of the state. October 23 I was called to Belmont for another lecture.

#### RELICS.

While exploring the Gray site a number of relics were secured, to which Mrs. Gray very kindly added some interesting specimens. In September Mrs. Gray brought to our exhibit on the state fair grounds two frames in which she had mounted material secured on the Gray site; these frames remained in the fire-proof rooms here until February of 1904, when she recalled them.

Mrs. Gertrude Romaine, of Lincoln, loaned the society a collection of recent Indian relics. A. G. Parker, of Yutan, sent a number of Stone Age implements. Milo Hodgkins, of Beatrice contributed a pair of handcuffs. S. H. Thompson contributed a celt and ceremonial from Ohio. Burt Griggs, of Lincoln contributed a number of specimens from Wyoming. Albert Bronn, of Reka, contributed a fine specimen of "Barn Owl," which has been taxidermed. Walter Rice, of Blue Springs, contributed about one hundred fine specimens from the Rice site. A canoe from the Winnebago agency has been added to the museum; this canoe was made from solid walnut log by "Rain-bow," a Winnebago Indian, and has seen a number of years of service on the waters of that reservation.

#### STATE FAIR.

A very attractive exhibit was installed at the state fair of 1903. The value of an exhibit of this kind can not be overestimated. A list of new acquaintances is added each year and much valuable data collected.

Through the kindness of ex-Governor R. W. Furnas, secretary of the Agricultural Society and president of the Historical Society, I was enabled

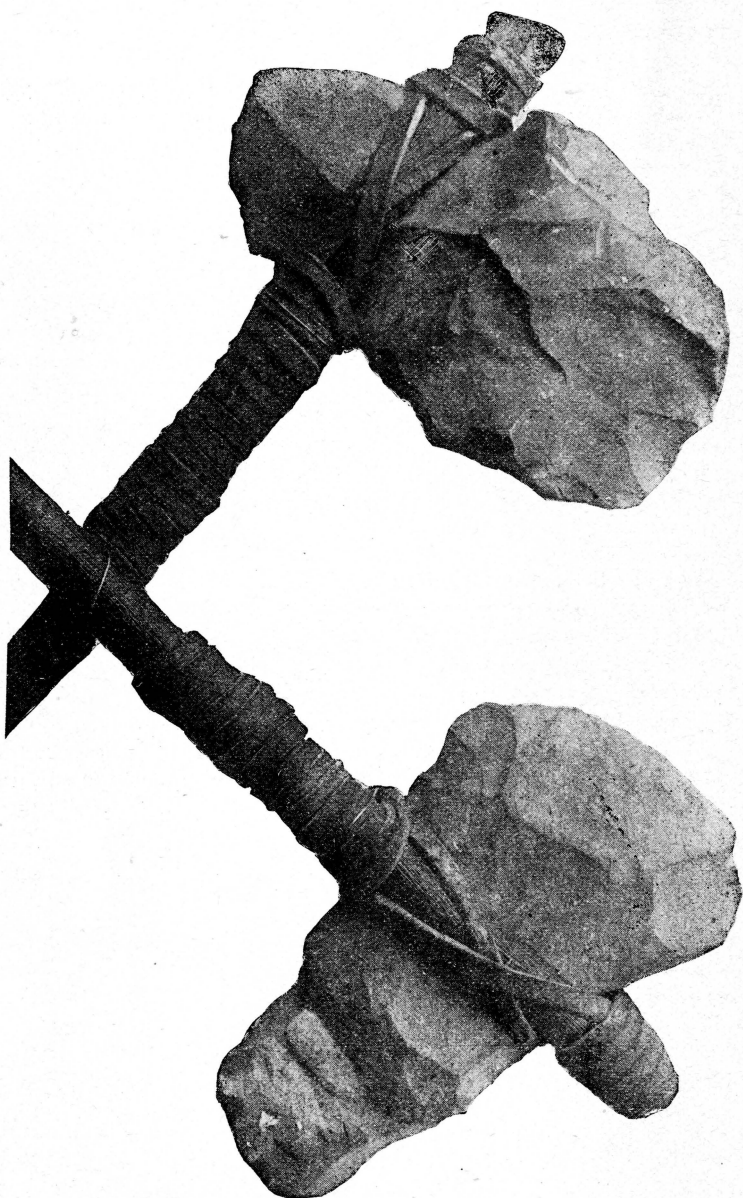


PLATE V.

to publish a brief report of this department prior to and including the year 1902. A number of excerpts were made and bound in pamphlet form.

There are a number of collections that may be secured for the museum as soon as adequate space can be arranged in which to properly exhibit them, and I urge your honorable body to use diligence in arranging for sufficient space in which to house and protect these collections to the end that they may be secured before they are destroyed and while the owners are willing to let them go.

E. E. BLACKMAN, *State Archeologist*.

---

## REPORT OF DEPARTMENT OF ARCHEOLOGY, 1904.

---

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHEOLOGY, January 1, 1905.

*To the Honorable Executive Board, Nebraska State Historical Society:*

The Department of Archeology presents the following report for the year 1904:

Despite the various disadvantages under which this department has labored during this year, I am enabled to make a showing of advancement along some lines of activity. Three trips of exploration were made; the first to Blue Springs, where, in company with Walter Rice, I explored a new site which Mr. Rice had discovered and from which he has taken a number of interesting relics. This site is southeast of the Rice site, and I have named it the "Walter site" in honor of Walter Rice, and to distinguish it from the other site which was named for his father. This is either a continuation of the Rice site or was occupied by the same Indians at about the same time.

Upon this site Walter Rice found the two Quivera tomahawks, which he mounted as he thought the Indians mounted them and which I illustrated in last year's report. The people who once lived at this point used only the coarsely chipped flints; the Quivera types, alone, are found and no pottery is intermixed. This site belongs to the same general class as the Hollingworth site, and is different from the Wonder site. The mystery of these people deepens as we explore farther. The permanent home of the people who made and used these coarsely chipped implements was undoubtedly on the Kansas River or near it; their relics are found strewn along the Blue River near its mouth and become less and less abundant as we ascend the Blue, until the Hollingworth site, near Holmesville, is the farthest point north at which their relics have been found. The Hollingworth site has every appearance of being the permanent home of these people for a number of years at least; was this site occupied by a branch of the same people who left such quantities of chipped implements south of Manhattan, Kan., or was this Blue valley occupied by another tribe of people not related to the Kansas tribes, but who had learned of them the art of stone chipping and implement making? Or is it possible that two different and distinct tribes, so far removed from



each other, should have the art of implement making so similar in every detail? The answer to these questions may, in time, be possible. The valley of the Blue must be explored farther north and a list of these rude village ruins must be completed before one dare venture an assertion. Mr. Rice has done much to throw light on the mystery in his locality, and each year we add some new information and many new relics.

The second exploring trip was made to Beatrice in hope of interesting some local archeologist in the work farther up the river. I hoped to get a start at Beatrice from which I could begin to chart the Blue valley from there to Crete, but in this trip I accomplished little or nothing. The work must be commenced from some point farther up the river.

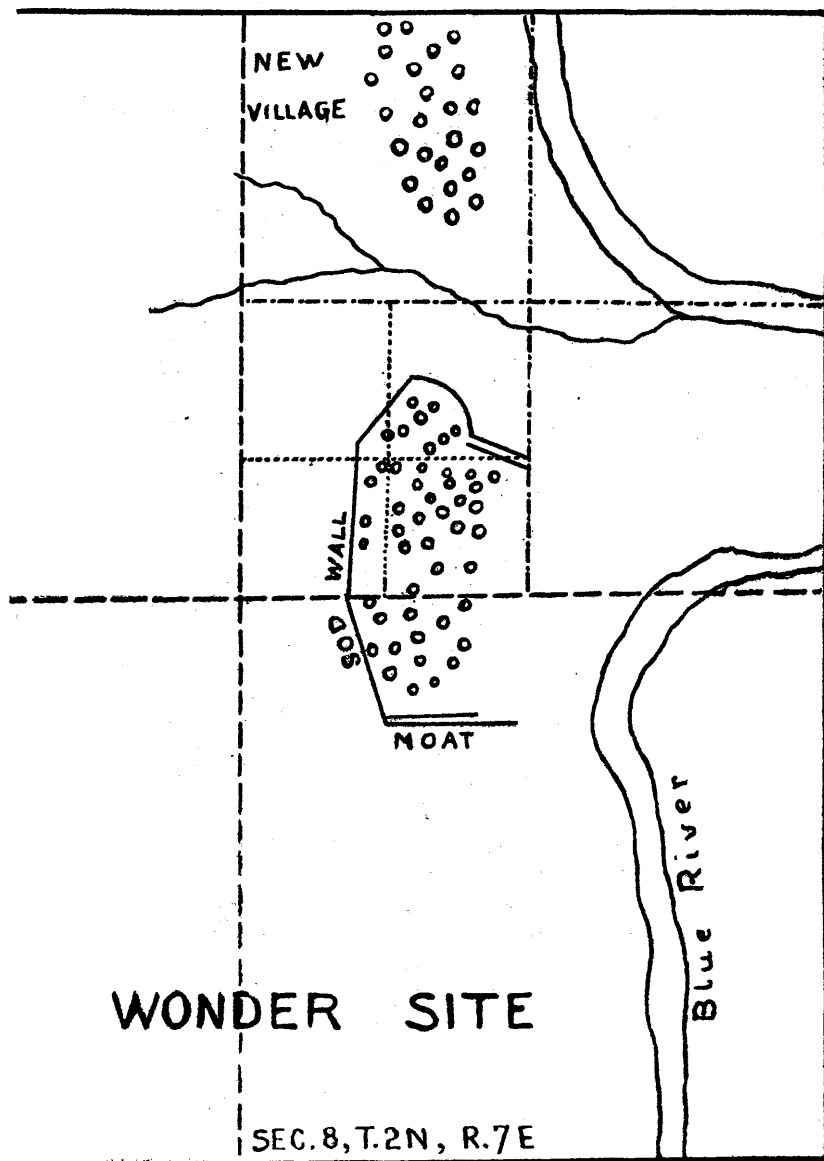
August 11 I visited Blue Springs again and completed some details of a chart of the Wonder site and vicinity, which I have made from time to time as I visited this interesting ruin. This chart I wish to present as a part of this report (marked *Plate I*).

Just north of the Wonder site, in the same section of land, is another extensive ruin which I have named the "James site" in honor of the man who owns the land. This is not so large as the Wonder site, and has not been explored to any great extent, but enough has been learned to classify it as the same kind as the Wonder site.

Mr. Wilson, who was one of the first pioneers in that part of the state, told me on my first visit to that site that in an early day there were roads leading from this ruin in a northern direction—one due north and one northwest. There was also a well-defined trail twenty feet wide leading nearly due east to the river brink. He said the sod wall, which enclosed about thirty acres of ground, and which surrounded the village ruin, as well as the ruins of the lodges, made the ground so uneven that it had to be graded with a team and scraper before it could be farmed.

From another source at the same time I was informed that these ruins were made by a company of surveyors who wintered there; but the person who informed me, and whose name I have forgotten, did not know when the surveyors were there. The relics found prove that if surveyors did winter at this point they used an abandoned Indian village for their camp. There are no relics left to indicate that white men ever occupied this place for any considerable time. This is an interesting study, but the work has not progressed far enough to determine what tribe of Indians occupied this ruin, nor at what date. Before this fact can be definitely determined it is necessary to have a chart of the principal Indian village ruins in the state and a collection of relics from each, so that the whole area of the state can be studied. Then one must determine the class of relics common to each tribe, and the tribe which occupied a village by the relics found there. The time can only be determined approximately at the best; but when a given locality is known to be the home of a given tribe, the approximate date can be found.

One of the real features of the work of the Historical Society this year was the celebration of the centennial anniversary of the landing of Lewis and Clark at Council Bluffs and the first treaty with Nebraska



One mile north of Blue Springs, on the farm belonging to G. Wonder.

Indians on Nebraska soil. This celebration took place at Fort Calhoun, eighteen miles north of Omaha, August 3.

I was appointed as one of the committee on arrangements, which was composed of a member from each of the three societies holding the celebration, and a number of trips were made to Fort Calhoun; many more were made to Omaha, and the best part of the exploring season was spent in arranging for this celebration.

As part of this report, I present a detailed account of this celebration marked A).

It was planned by some of the members of the Quivera Historical Society to celebrate an occasion at Manhattan, Kan., by dedicating a monument to the memory of "Tatarrax," who, according to the Spanish narratives of the expedition of Coronado in 1541, was then the king or chief ruler of "Quivera," and wore about his neck a copper disc—the only piece of metal at all resembling gold found on the trip.

Tatarrax is well worthy of a monument, and as I was invited to assist in the program of the day, I made a trip to the little town of Manhattan. The monument is a granite shaft of imposing appearance, and much interest was manifest by the people of the place. Such dedications are of educational value and should be oftener indulged.

The office staff of the Historical Society insisted that I should take a week in which to make a study of the anthropology exhibited at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, held at St. Louis. Among the many points for study brought forward by this exhibit, one alone can be mentioned in this report, owing to lack of space. In the exhibit made by the Missouri Historical Society was a collection of very superior chipped flints. These implements were found all together in a cache in Tennessee and show the aboriginal art in the greatest perfection I have ever seen. There were over a hundred of them found in the same cache, and they were all made of the same dark-brown jasper. I am not able to find where this material comes from, nor has any one found like specimens in any other locality, so far as I have been able to learn.

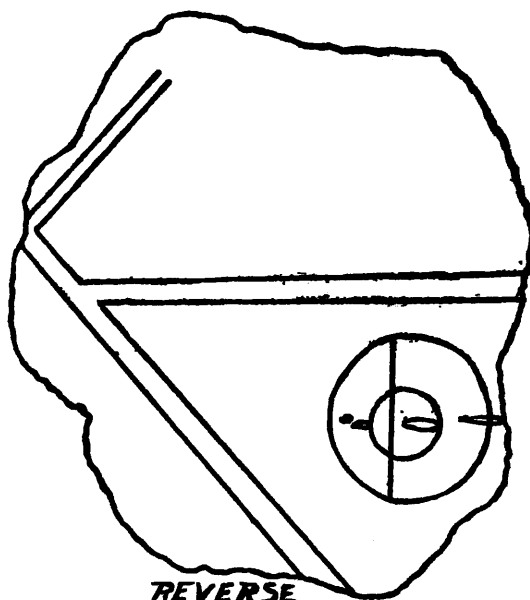
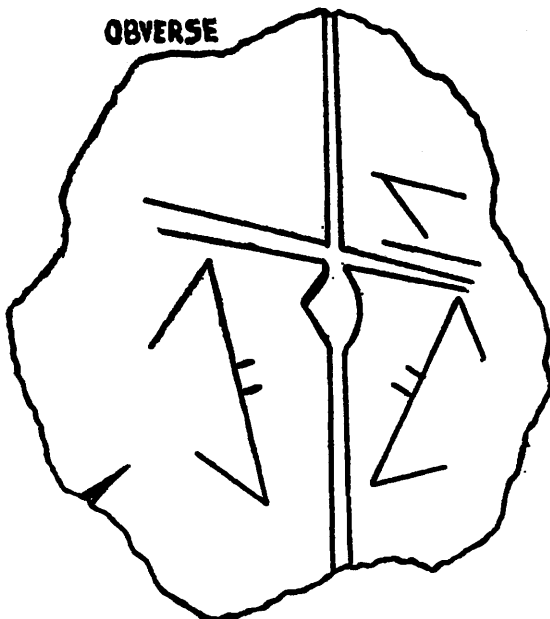
In the Nebraska State Historical Society museum is a specimen found near Genoa, Neb., and owned by Mrs. Hannah Larson, which corresponds in every way with the specimens shown in the Missouri Historical Society exhibit at the fair. This specimen was found on a site once occupied by the Pawnees and is one of the most perfect specimens in our museum; the material is the same, so far as the eye can determine, and the individuality of chipping shows the same. One would think it part of this Tennessee collection. Now the curious part of this similarity is how did this peculiar specimen, so unlike any other found in this state and so like the others found in Tennessee, come to be in Nebraska? This incident will serve to show the value of great expositions in bringing together great books of object lessons.

#### MUSEUM.

By far the most important work of the year, and that which consumed most of the time which has heretofore been devoted to exploration and lectures, was the museum.

Early in the year 1904 a complete change was made in the arrangement of the museum rooms. The four new upright cases were arranged on the east side of the room, and the two large flat cases were arranged on the north side, while the four show cases which stood on tables across the center of the room were mounted above the flat cases with the backs together and the boards removed; this arrangement gives much more floor space and makes a very desirable case in which to place articles when either side should be seen. Three cases were built of the glass-front boxes and placed in such a way that the light is very good in all parts of the case. This gives the museum twelve large cases in the museum room proper, and three in the outer office. Nearly every specimen is under glass, except large spinning wheels, the ox-yoke, plow and like things that dust does not injure materially. It required nine hundred square feet of glass to cover the specimens we are exhibiting. While the museum is so crowded, I think it best to store the less interesting material and exhibit properly that which is shown at all.

While mention has been made in these reports of the collections brought to the museum each year, no detailed catalogue has been published owing to the lack of space. The public, prone as they are to forgetfulness, is not familiar with the contents of this museum. The thousands of visitors from this and other states, who visit the museum, have a conception of the rapid growth of this department of the state historical society work, but the greater number of the citizens of the state who should be interested in this work never visit Lincoln, and the only knowledge they get of what is being done is through the medium of printed reports. It is impossible at this time to devote the necessary time to a complete catalogue of the whole museum, but a brief review of the general classes of relics and a brief reference to the most interesting specimens is a necessity, that the general public may learn to appreciate the work being done and the necessity of preserving the rare specimens which individuals may have in their homes in the fire-proof rooms of the Historical Society. The specimens which you may send here as a loan or as a gift are, in the first place, perfectly safe from fire; in the second place, you may loan your specimens and have them returned to you at any time, or, if they be old heirlooms, they may be placed here and the ownership pass by will to all the heirs while the article is here as a permanent loan and well cared for. The specimens which you send here are not buried in oblivion, as they are in your possession, but every distinguished visitor from this and other states, who happens to sojourn in Lincoln for a few days, visits our museum. This condition will always exist, and as our museum is made more attractive it will grow in interest. Your relics will assist in making it more attractive, and each year thousands will see and enjoy them. This is not the strongest plea for you to send them here. Remember, this great university has many students who are making special study of almost every subject; they do not study from books alone, but go to the sources and use original material; all the rare documents, all the ancient im-

**OBVERSE****REVERSE****PLATE VI.**

plements of our forefathers, which teach the evolution of the present day perfection, make up the original sources from which their study is made: if all the chipped flint implements ever found in the state could be brought together in one museum and a carefully written history of the finding of each be made, the archeology of Nebraska would be comparatively a simple study, and an accurate history of our aborigines would be possible. Your specimens, so long as they are buried on your center table or in your cabinet, are retarding the study of the Nebraska aborigine. Your name and ownership need not pass from them when they are sent here. There are one hundred people in this state, now, who will live in the history of the state simply on account of specimens which they found and loaned to this society for study, without which their names would have been forgotten in fifty years at the most. Will you add to the world's stock of knowledge? Will you become worthy of a place in history by assisting in this work? Overcome the petty selfishnesses of life and let the little mite you can contribute to the study be used as a stepping stone for some other student to carry the work to completion. Send us the specimens you have and let the world know of them, and of you.

As part of this report I present a brief review of the museum, together with a list of the donors (marked *B*).

The Nebraska Commission of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition solicited this society to send a representative exhibit to St. Louis. In consequence, thirty-eight cases were made seventeen by twenty-nine inches and four inches deep; these were fitted with plate-glass covers, and in them were mounted relics from the museum, statistical maps and charts and representative photographs taken in the state. These cases, after being filled, were crated securely and sent to St. Louis in the car with other Nebraska material. Mr. Barrett went to St. Louis and placed these cases in the agricultural exhibit as wall decorations. Some time later they were removed from the agricultural exhibit, without our knowledge or consent, and sent over to the educational exhibit, where they were kept during the remainder of the fair. Part were on exhibition and part were stored under the curtains, owing to lack of room in which to exhibit them. Some of the most breakable articles I removed from the cases when I was at St. Louis in November and brought them home with me. The rest of the exhibit arrived at our rooms after the fair. Aside from a few broken specimens and a few lost specimens the exhibit is safely returned. Could this exhibit have been placed where it belonged, in the building of anthropology, it would have made a credible showing.

The mounting of coins and other material in the museum is a difficult matter when all sides must be seen and studied. Nothing can be found on the market which will subserve this purpose, so, with the assistance of Mr. Barrett, the curator, we have devised a case wherein such specimens can be mounted and all sides studied at pleasure; we only lack the time necessary to make the cases, and hope to have all our coin collections so mounted in the near future.

One of the greatest evils we have had to combat in the past is the dust which penetrated the windows and arose from the floors of the rooms, settling on the exposed specimens and glass of the cases. It required the whole time of one man to keep the museum in presentable shape on this account. While I was at St. Louis I saw the effect of a kind of patented window strip which effectually kept the dust from coming in; I called the attention of the university authorities to the matter and they kindly consented to fit my museum with these strips, so the dust from that source is effectually overcome. The floors I have thoroughly cleaned and have dressed them with a material which I have discovered and which causes the dust which falls on the floor to become too heavy to rise, and is easily removed with a broom. These two precautionary measures have given splendid results in saving of time and in cleanliness.

The Academy of Sciences holds a meeting once a year. At these meetings new discoveries of interest and merit are brought to the attention of the public. I have been asked to treat of "New Forms of Flint Implements Found in Nebraska" at the coming meeting. As these new forms of flint implements really belong to this report, no more fitting place can be found than here in which to report the substance of the matter which I have prepared for that meeting:

Three new forms of flint implements have been discovered and studied in this department since 1900. One which I shall name the "Hopkins Groover," was first brought to my attention by Mr. A. L. Hopkins, of Oakdale, Antelope county. This gentleman suggested the use to which they were put by the aborigines, and I have failed to find a better explanation, so will accept his until a better is offered. These implements have a shape somewhat like a hawk's bill, and Mr. Hopkins suggests that they were used to put the three grooves length-wise of the arrow-shaft. These grooves are made on all arrow-shafts, and since the Indians have used steel arrow-points they use the point of another arrow or a knife with which to make the groove. So far they have not been noticed except in Antelope county. The point of the implement is its only peculiar feature. One side of the implement is left flat, or with the concoidal fracture of the flint chip of which it is made in plain evidence like the flat side of a scraper; the other side is chipped oval and tapers to a point like a bird's bill. There is often considerable curve to the flat side. We have a number of specimens in the museum and many more may be secured in Antelope county, as few local archeologists recognize them as anything but a chance form; however, too many are found to so consider them.

Mr. Thomas Marwood first called my attention to the second type of new flint implement; I am at a loss for an appropriate name for this, and in my dilemma shall simply name it in honor of its discoverer, "the Marwood." It is round at the center and tapers toward both ends; it is like two cones placed with their bases together; however, in most of the specimens one or both of the ends are out of true—that is, the points lean to one side. Mr. Marwood has a number of specimens and Mr. Hopkins has a few. We hope some one will evolve a probable theory as

to their use. The implement is very minute—less than an inch in length—and made of a very fine grade of flint or agate. The home of the material I do not know and they are all of the same kind of material. So far they have not been noticed in any other place than Antelope county, and the material is different from other specimens found there.

The last of the three I found on the Gray site, near Schuyler. Mrs. Gray has a large collection, and a gentleman at Neligh has a number found near that town. This implement is flat (or concoidal) on one side and chipped oval on the other; the end is chipped round, and I would call them a form of scraper, as the finished end so much resembles that implement, but they are too small and much longer than wide. The width of the implement is from a quarter to a half inch, and the length is from one and a half to two and a half inches, while the proportion is nearly the same in all. The workmanship is very superior; much too fine for a scraper. I shall call this implement "the Gray" to distinguish it from others, and suggest that these curious specimens were used as tweezers with which to pull beard from the face. Can any one suggest a more likely use?

I hope you will keep on the watch for new types of implements; this field was the middle ground between the tribes of the far east and the tribes from the far west; the plains of the Mississippi valley are strewn with the implements of these people, and you may be sure the mingling of the tribes gave new ideas to each which found expression in new and different forms of chipped flint.

Three very fine specimens of the knife known as "the Stocton Curve," which has only been found in California heretofore, have been found in this state. One I found near Genoa, and the other two were sent by Mr. Parker and were also found near Genoa.

During the latter part of 1904 this department had a number of lantern-slides made to illustrate the work. These will be used in lectures that the public, far removed from our museum, may enjoy some of our fine specimens and realize the necessity of sending the specimens they may have in their private collections where they will be of greater value to science.

One of the many points of study and classification which is under way in this department is a card catalogue of Indian chiefs and other prominent Indians of this state. A card was printed and sent out to men who may have known these chiefs personally; these cards are intended to give complete bibliography of the Indian name, that students of Indian history will find such a catalogue of inestimable value; it will greatly aid me in the work of my department. The results, as yet, are none too flattering but the work has just begun and will take much time to complete. It will be built up as the characters are found in the study of other matters.

E. E. BLACKMAN, *State Archeologist.*